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THE
Saturday Magazine.

No. 147.

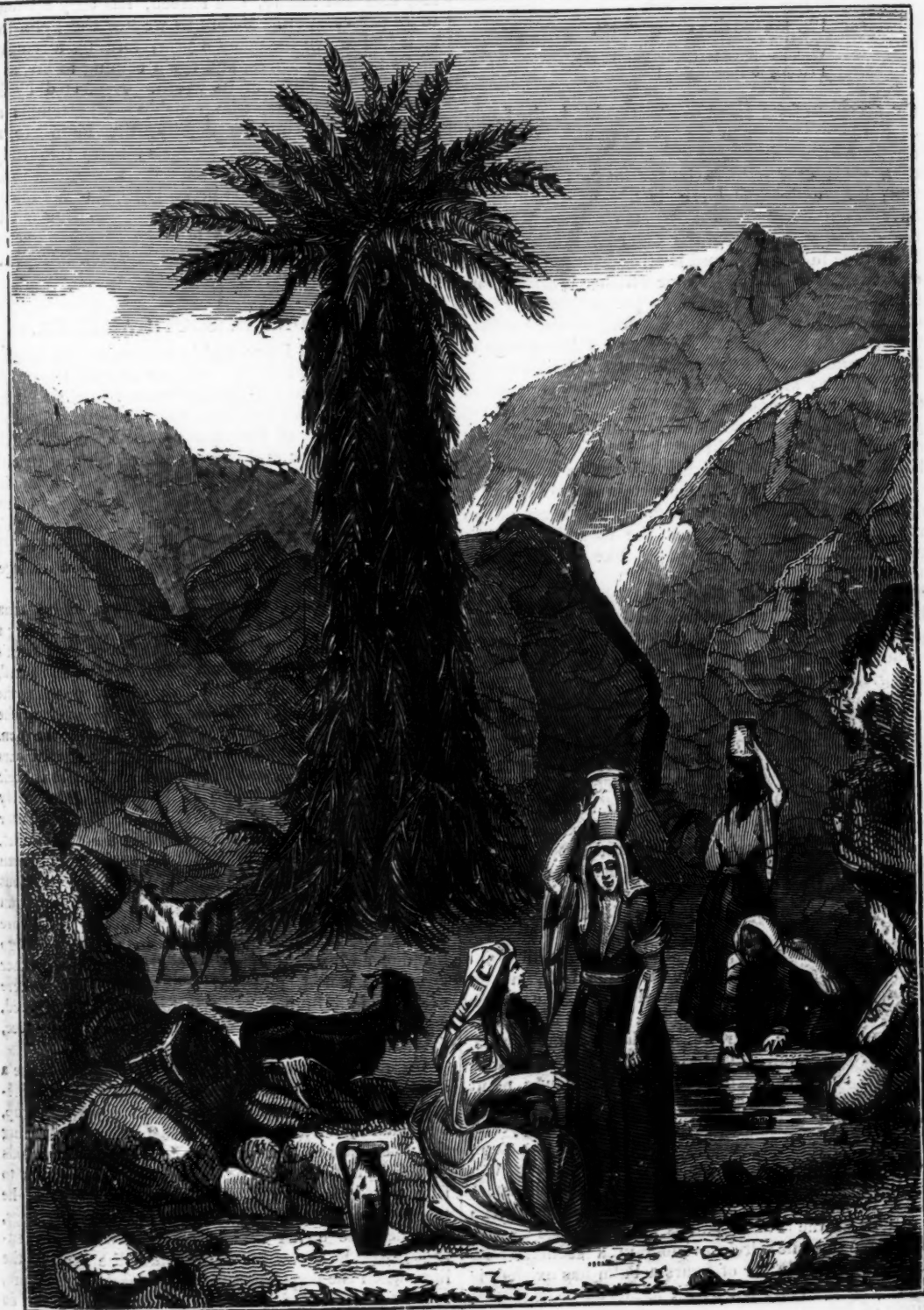
OCTOBER

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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND EDUCATION
APPOINTED BY THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.



THE WILD PALM OF THE DESERT.

THE WILD PALM-TREE.

'Mid rocks, and sands, and barrenness,
How beautiful to see;
The wild Palm in its desert dress—
The solitary tree!

Alone, amid the silent wild,
It rears its spreading crest;
The boundless desert's favoured child,
In constant verdure drest.

An emblem of that faith that cheers
The pilgrim on his road,
Through life's dark vale of care and tears,
Beneath his earthly load.

For, like that faith alone it stands,
A bright Oasis in the sands,
With hand-like leaves against the sky,
Pointing to Immortality!

ON account of its great use to mankind, the family of the Palms stands in the first rank among the productions of the vegetable kingdom, and ought, more than most others, to excite the interest of naturalists; but, unfortunately, it is one of those which have been least noticed by travellers. Whether the difficulty of finding the different species at the same time in blossom, and bearing fruit, is the cause of this want of information, or whether it arises from the great height of the Palms preventing their easy examination, still the result is, that, in most collections, the fruit is preserved without a knowledge of the blossom, or the flowers without the fruit.

The Palms are peculiar to the warmer regions of the globe, and the name *Palma* has been given to these productions of the vegetable world, from the supposed resemblance of their broad leaves to the human hand, *palma* being the Latin word for a hand. On the same account, the Date, which is the fruit of a species of Palm, is called *dactylus*, a finger, not so much from its form, as from the mode in which it grows in clusters, spreading out like the fingers of the hand.

These trees are of the utmost importance to the inhabitants of the tropical regions; the fruit and sap providing them with food, the fibrous part of their structure with clothing, and the leaves forming the greatest part of their slightly-constructed huts. After enumerating some of the uses to which they are applied, a French naturalist says, "besides these principal advantages, they bestow many secondary benefits, which deserve notice; the leaves of some kinds are formed into fans, parasols, and hats; others again are written on, in the same manner as we write on paper, with a metal style; artificial flowers are formed out of the pith of some; the light and supple rattan-cane is the slender shoot of another species, and solid and useful goblets are made from the shell of the cocoa-nut, which the most refined luxury does not despise."

The Palm is a most graceful plant, and, in the figurative language of Scripture its name is frequently employed to express beauty and elegance. The growth of the Palm is extremely singular; for, although some species attain the height of the largest forest-trees, their structure differs materially from that of a tree, properly so called. The leaves of the young plant arise immediately from the surface of the ground, and it is not until after the lapse of several years, that there is any appearance of stem, and this stem, when once formed, never increases in size, the growth of the plant being always upward, so that the stem itself is formed by the former growth of the green portions of the Palm; and as we can judge the age of a tree by the circles visible in a section of its trunk, so the number of years a Palm has existed, is known by the scars left by the falling off of its annual circle of leaves,

The engraving represents a wild Palm-tree, near Mount Sinai, and is copied from Laborde's splendid work on Arabia Petrea: speaking of this interesting object, he says, "What appeared to me most worthy of notice was a Palm-tree in its natural state, which we found above Ouadi Seleh. The Palm-tree is always represented with its summit pointed, its leaves bent back and spreading over its head, from whence gracefully hang dates as bright as coral; and we never imagine that all this elegance is produced by art, and that nature, less refined, has only attended to its preservation. Before us we saw the Palm-tree as it had grown for many a year, forming a rampart of its perishing leaves, and again coming to life, as it were, in the midst of its wreck. Neglected by the Arab of the desert, who considers all attempts at cultivation beneath his dignity, the Palm-tree, at times, forms impenetrable forests; more frequently, however, it is found isolated near a fountain, as we see in the engraving. It presents itself to the thirsty traveller like a friendly lighthouse, pointing out to him the spot where water is to be found to quench his thirst, and a charitable shade in which to repose."

LION HUNT IN SOUTH AMERICA.

AT Villavicencio I was highly entertained in hunting a *Pagi*, or Chilian Lion. On our arrival, the people were preparing to destroy this enemy to their cattle: several dogs were collected from the neighbouring farms, and some of the young men of the surrounding country were in hopes of taking him alive with their lassos, and of afterwards baiting him in the village for the diversion of the ladies; whilst others were desirous of signalizing the prowess of their favourite dogs. All of them were determined to kill this ravenous brute, which had caused much damage, particularly among their horses.

At four o'clock we left the village, more than twenty in number, each leading a dog, and having a chosen lasso on his arm, ready to throw at a moment's warning. About a mile from the village we separated, by different by-roads, into five or six parties, the men taking the dogs on their horses, to prevent the possibility of the scent being discovered by the lion. All noise was avoided; even the smoking of cigars was dispensed with, lest the smell should alarm their prey, and they should lose their sport. The party which I joined consisted of five individuals. After riding about four miles, we arrived at a small rivulet, where a young colt was tied to a tree, having been taken there for that purpose. We then retired about three hundred yards, and the colt being alone began to neigh, which had the desired effect; for before sunset, one of our party, placed in advance, let go his dog and whistled, at which signal three other dogs were loosed, and ran towards the place where the colt had been left. We immediately followed, and soon found the lion with his back against a tree, defending himself against his adversaries.

On our appearance he seemed inclined to make a start, and attempt an escape. The lassos were immediately in motion, when four more dogs came up, and shortly afterwards their masters, who, hearing the noise, had ridden to the spot as fast as the woods would permit them. The poor brute seemed now to fear the increase of his enemies. However, he maintained his post, and killed three or four dogs, at which the owner of one of them became so enraged, that he threw his lasso round the neck of the lion, when the dogs, supposing the onset more secure, sprang on him, and he was soon overpowered, but so dreadfully wounded and torn, that it became neces-

sary to put an end to his life. The length of this animal, from the nose to the root of the tail, was five feet four inches, and from the bottom of the foot to the top of the shoulder, thirty-one inches. Its head was round, and much like that of a cat, the upper lip being entire, and supplied with whiskers; the nose flat, the eyes large, of a brownish hue, but very much suffused with blood; the ears short and pointed. It had no mane. The neck, back, and sides were of a dusky ash colour, with some yellowish spots; the belly of a dirty white; the hair on his buttocks long and shaggy. Each jaw was armed with four cutting, four canine, and sixteen grinding teeth; each of its fore-paws and hind-feet with five toes, and very strong talons.

Four lassos, attached to the girths of the saddles of two horses, were fastened to the lion, which was thus dragged to the village, where we arrived about nine o'clock, and were received by the whole of the inhabitants with shouting and rejoicing. The remainder of the night was spent in dancing and carousing.

The people informed me that the favourite food of the lion is horse-flesh; that watching a good opportunity it jumps upon the back of its prey, which it worries, tearing the flesh with one paw, whilst it secures its hold with the other; after sucking the blood it drags the carcase to some hiding-place, covers it with leaves, and returns when hungry to devour it. If it enter a place where horned cattle are kept, the bulls and cows immediately form a circle, and place the calves and young cattle in the centre; they then face their enemy boldly, and not unfrequently oblige him to retreat, on which the bulls follow him and often gore him to death. It would therefore appear to be more from fear than choice that he is attached to the flesh of horses. The animal was never known to attack a man; so timid is he of the human race, that he runs away at the appearance of a child, which may, perhaps, be accounted for from the abundance of cattle supplying him so easily with food, that he is seldom in want of flesh.

[STEVENSON'S *Residence in South America*.]

THE cheerfulness of heart which springs up in us, from the survey of Nature's works, is an admirable preparation for gratitude. The mind has gone a great way towards praise and thanksgiving, that is filled with such secret gladness. A grateful reflection on the supreme Cause, who produces it, sanctifies it in the soul, and gives it its proper value. Such an habitual disposition of mind, consecrates every field and wood, turns an ordinary walk into a morning or evening sacrifice, and will improve those transient gleams of joy which naturally brighten up and refresh the soul on such occasions, into an inviolable and perpetual state of bliss and happiness.—ADDISON.

In the wildest anarchy of man's insurgent appetites and sins, there is still a reclaiming voice; a voice which, even when in practice disregarded, it is impossible not to own; and to which, at the very moment that we refuse our obedience, we find that we cannot refuse the homage of what ourselves do feel and acknowledge to be the best, the highest principles of our nature.—CHALMERS.

ONE reason why God hath scattered up and down several degrees of pleasure and pain, in all the things that environ and affect us, and blended them together, in almost all that our thoughts and senses have to do with, is, that we, finding imperfection, dissatisfaction, and want of complete happiness in all the enjoyments which the creatures can afford us, might be led to seek it in the enjoyment of Him with whom "there is fulness of joy, and at whose right hand are pleasures for evermore."—LOCKE.

GRECIAN ARCHITECTURE.

ARCHITECTURE has been divided into *Civil, Military, and Naval*. Civil architecture, of which we are about to speak, refers to the building of churches, palaces, private houses, &c., and the different varieties of style may be said to be four, namely, *Egyptian, Chinese, Grecian, and Gothic*. On referring to the more permanent buildings in these different styles, we shall find the peculiarities of each can be easily traced to the more ordinary dwellings of the original inhabitants of the countries to which they respectively belong.

The Egyptian style is massive, and the buildings are frequently excavated from the solid rock, thus following the practice of the people who dwelt in caverns cut out of the sides of rocks and hills, before the art of building habitations was practised. The Chinese formed their lighter dwellings after the fashion of the original Tartar tent, with awnings and verandahs. The Grecian orders of architecture are referrible to buildings of wood, and the Gothic to bowers formed by the bending over and entwining together of the upper branches of trees.

In the present paper we shall confine ourselves to the Grecian style, which was also adopted by the Romans.

The buildings of these ancient nations are distinguished by five varieties of columns, and as many different modes of arranging the mouldings, and other ornaments with which they are decorated. These various methods of decoration have acquired the name of the Five Orders of Architecture, and, in well-designed buildings, the ornaments and mouldings belonging to one order are never found confounded with the columns of another.

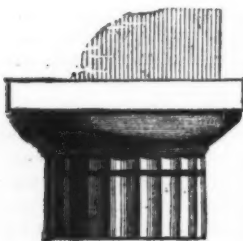
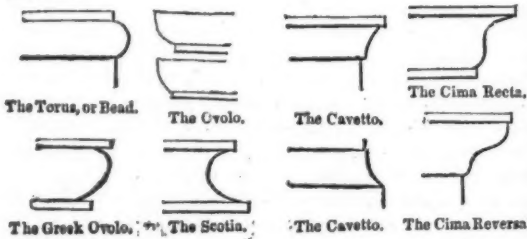
The Greeks seem to have derived their ideas of architecture from the Egyptians, and some of their earlier buildings partook of much of the Egyptian character; but as the climate of Greece was subject to frequent rains, it was found necessary to raise the whole structure on an artificial platform, and to cover it with an inclined roof, with projecting eaves. The different materials, also, of which the buildings were constructed, as we have already noticed, produced a great difference in the relative proportions of the various parts. The edifices of the Egyptians being chiefly formed of immense blocks of granite, the heaviest kind of stone; the supports of the superstructure were necessarily massive in proportion: the mysterious character, also, of their idolatry, was assisted by the dismal grandeur of their stupendous temples. The stone, of which the Grecian temples are constructed, is of a much lighter description, and many parts of their buildings show, that before they had learnt the method of working in marble, the material usually employed was wood; so that, partly following the design of their original wooden buildings, and partly importing the style of the Egyptians, a structure, partaking of the character of the architecture of both nations, was the consequence.

In noticing the progress of the art, we find the plain and sturdy Doric column succeeded by the more graceful and ornamented Ionic, and that, again, by the richly decorated Corinthian and the Composite order of the Romans.

The principal feature in an order of architecture is the perpendicular support, or *column*. The bottom of this column rests upon a square plinth, sometimes ornamented with mouldings; this is called the *base*; the top of the column is also covered in the same manner, and this ornament is the *capital*; the body of the column is named the *shaft*. That part of the building which rests on the column is the

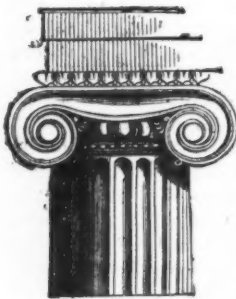
entablature, and is divided into three parts, the *architrave*, the *frieze*, and the *cornice*. "The *architrave* consists of a lintel laid along the tops of the columns; the *frieze* is above this, and represents the ends of the cross-beams of a wooden building, resting upon the former, and having the spaces between filled up, having also a moulding fixed, so as to conceal the horizontal joint, and divide it from the *architrave*. The upper member, or *cornice*, resembles the projecting eaves of a Greek house, showing the ends of the rafters."

The mouldings with which a building is ornamented have obtained various names, according to their forms: we subjoin a few, to illustrate the subject.



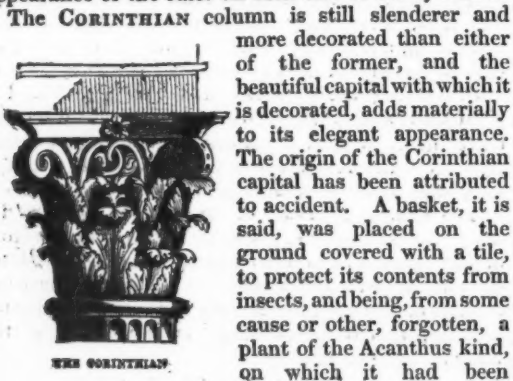
THE DORIC.

other orders, its height being about six times the diameter of the base.



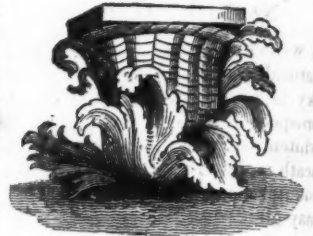
THE IONIC.

The **IONIC** order is much more graceful than the last, and the ornament of the capital more elaborate. It has been fancifully said, that the intention of the architect, in the proportion of these two orders, was to give an idea of the male and female form, the sturdy unornamented Doric having a masculine character, and the more slender Ionic a feminine, and the *volutas*, the spiral ornaments of the capital, were said to have been suggested by the appearance of the curls on each side of a lady's head.



THE CORINTHIAN.

placed, shot up its leaves and covered its outer surface, in the manner represented in the engraving, while at the same time, the tile, opposing the free growth of the longer leaves, forced them to curl round, so as to bear some resemblance to the volutes at the angles of the capital. This appearance, it is said, was noticed by a sculptor of the name of Callimachus, who, struck with the beauty of the group, immediately imagined the Corinthian capital.



The **TUSCAN** column was invented by the Romans, and was formed upon the model of the ancient Doric, with such alterations as suggested themselves to the architects of those days. The chief of these consisted in the alteration of the proportions of the shaft, by making it of a slenderer form, and by constantly forming it with a base.



THE TUSCAN.

The **COMPOSITE** order is the most ornamented of the whole five, and was designed from various parts of the Corinthian and Ionic. It is employed in many of the most splendid edifices of the Roman capital.



THE COMPOSITE.

THE warmth and protection which birds receive from their parent, is beautifully illustrative of the security afforded by a superintending Providence, to those who apply to him for help: "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust." To my feelings there is not in the whole Bible a more elegant or delightful metaphor than this, or one which the human mind, especially when in a state of affliction and distress, may dwell upon with greater comfort and satisfaction. When I have seen a bird of prey hovering over some newly-hatched chickens, and perceived them run for shelter under the wings of their parent, I am forcibly reminded that in the hour of danger and temptation I may fly, by prayer, to my heavenly Father for refuge and protection. Those who have made the works of creation their study, will have had many opportunities of appreciating the truth of the remarks I have ventured from time to time to make, respecting the lessons of instruction which may be derived from the delightful contemplation of the various objects with which we are perpetually surrounded.—*Jesse's Gleanings.*

FAMILIAR ILLUSTRATIONS OF NATURAL PHENOMENA.

No. XIII. WATER IN ITS SOLID STATE.

A WINTER, in the northern parts of Europe, offers natural scenes of great interest and beauty. The sky is pure and clear: a bright sun lights up the prospect: the earth is covered with snow of dazzling whiteness: and the rivers and lakes are hidden beneath a barrier of solid ice. The whole face of the country presents a surface, over which the traveller may glide with rapidity, ease, and security, defended from the cold, and seated in a commodious sledge: so that winter, instead of being there a period of "home-born happiness," is selected, by the natives of Russia and Siberia, as the time to undertake journeys on tracts which are nearly impassable in the summer-months. If the traveller passes through a forest, he perceives every bough and sprig to be wrapped in a glassy case, caused by the congelation of the vapour in the atmosphere. A thousand vivid colours are reflected from every twig; and, if a breeze springs up, the icy crystals are detached, and fall with a tinkling sound upon the solid surface of the hardened snow. In the cities, rich equipages glide along without noise. The horses are decorated with plumes of feathers; and ladies, wrapped in furs, and attended by a numerous escort, are swept rapidly along, in cars made in imitation of swans, or in other fanciful shapes. Artificial hills are formed of ice, down which those who are sufficiently adventurous are hurried with a force which carries them up an opposite ascent of the same kind. And, it is said, that even a palace has been constructed, sufficiently large to contain many hundred persons, of no other materials than ice and snow.

All these remarkable phenomena are caused by a difference of a few degrees in the temperature of the air. If that temperature continues for a considerable time below the freezing point, all the water which is exposed to the action of the air becomes solid, and takes some of the different forms of which it is susceptible, as ice, snow, hail, hoar-frost, or congealed vapour. This scene, however, is as fugitive, as it is remarkable and beautiful. As soon as a thaw sets in, a very few hours are sufficient to break the charm, to destroy all this variety, and to reduce the water to its more usual form.

Facts of this nature, which, however well known, are often overlooked, show us, practically, with how great accuracy the Providence of God has arranged all the parts of the natural world. It is of vital importance to all the processes of vegetation and of animal life, that water should usually be found in a fluid state; yet the mean temperature of the earth, in order that this may be the case, must have been fixed within certain limits, which are very narrow, compared even with the heat or cold with which we are acquainted. And yet, in those parts of the world where the water is sometimes frozen for many weeks or months together, the temporary change is often a convenience. The surface of the snow forms a natural rail-road for the Laplander, the Russian, and the Canadian: the Esquimaux, during his long winter, forms his hut of snow, and glazes the window of it with ice.

We have already noticed, that heat and ice together may be said to form water, and hence we might expect that—however contrary to our prejudices—the freezing of water should produce an increase of sensible heat, in the bodies near that which is so frozen, since the act of freezing separates the heat which was unobserved, or latent, in the water. Experiment shows that this is actually the case: if a very delicate

thermometer is suspended above the surface of freezing water, it is found to indicate a current of air, rising from the water, of a higher temperature than that of the rest of the air. It is proved, by other means, that a pound of water, at the temperature of 32° , or at the freezing-point, gives out 140° of heat in being converted into ice. This effect is often made very sensible, by a rise of the temperature, when a sudden fall of snow comes on, in a hard frost. The snow is commonly said to *bring down the cold*. The real cause is the heat given out by the vapour of water suddenly frozen.

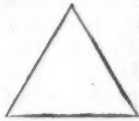
Now consider what effects follow from this fact in the great laboratory of nature. Bodies already solid, when exposed to cold, grow continually colder and colder, parting with their heat at different rates, according to their powers of conducting or radiating heat. But when, as in the case of water, a change of form from fluid to solid takes place, there is a sudden interruption in this uniformity of sensible cooling. After the surface of water is cooled down to the freezing-point, giving out its heat all the time as it grows colder, it continues to give out heat during the time of freezing without growing sensibly colder in the least, and thereby retards the influence of the cold upon surrounding objects. Thus the freezing of vast lakes in North America, and of the Polar seas, is an operation which, to a certain, and probably to a considerable extent, diminishes the intensity of cold which would otherwise be felt.

It is true, that, when a thaw takes place, the operation is reversed, and the heat necessary to liquefy the ice is taken from surrounding objects, occasioning them to be cooled. Every one knows the uncomfortable sensations of a *cold thaw*, which really arise from part of the heat of our own bodies being taken away to turn ice into water. But, in the parts of the earth where this change takes place on an immense scale, the check thus given to a sudden rise of temperature does not seem to be more than is necessary to prevent injurious consequences. The climate still undergoes a very speedy change, passing from the depth of winter to an intensely hot summer in a few days; and vegetation springs forth with a rapidity unexampled in any other parts of the world.

The good effects of ice, in its various forms, to prevent the too-rapid communication of cold, do not cease after the change from the fluid to the solid state is completed. Ice is a very imperfect conductor of heat, and, since it floats upon water, it prevents the water beneath it from being cooled. When frozen water is in the form of snow, its good effects are still more evident. Farmers well know what protection to their plants is afforded by a coating of snow. Nothing is more common than to see, during a hard frost, great injury done to the wheat or turnips in exposed places from which the snow has drifted away, while those parts which are well covered by it, are perfectly unhurt. And the reason is plain:—the parts below the snow will usually be subject to a degree of cold which is very little, if at all, below 32° , the freezing point. This is a temperature which plants, in general, can endure without injury, and some can continue to carry on the process of vegetation, and even of flowering, as we often see snow-drops in blossom beneath the snow. Those parts of a field, on the contrary, which are exposed, become intensely cold, not only by parting with their heat to the cold air with which they are in contact, but by the radiation of heat into the cold regions of the upper atmosphere, as we have seen in the case of the formation of dew*.

* See *Saturday Magazine*, Vol. IV., p. 117.

When water freezes, it crystallizes; that is, its particles arrange themselves in such an order as to produce certain regular forms. The small needle-like spikes of which it is composed, are found to cross each other at angles of sixty degrees, or at the same inclination as that of two sides of a triangle,



which has its three sides equal to one another. By the combination of a number of these, the beautiful feathery forms are composed, which may be seen upon a window, on a frosty morning. These form objects of great beauty, when viewed through a microscope, even of small magnifying power. And if the particles be melted, by gently breathing upon the glass, and then be suffered to freeze, the spiculæ of ice will be observed darting forth with immense rapidity. The effect may be seen very well, even with the naked eye.

Another beautiful form of frozen water is snow. If a large flake be observed just as it falls, it will be found to consist of a great number of minute spikes, loosely adhering together. A flake of snow occupies about nine times as much space as the water of which it is composed. These spikes are probably formed by the freezing of vapour in the upper parts of the atmosphere, and collect into masses as they descend.



In very clear and calm weather, it is not uncommon to have pieces of ice fall, crystallized in the form of stars, and in other shapes arising from the combination of particles arranged according to the laws of crystallization.

Hail appears to be formed by the freezing of drops of rain, in their descent. The formation of hail is closely connected with electricity. In a thunder-storm hail frequently falls. An attempt was made in France, some years ago, to defend tracts of country from the ill-effects of hail-storms, which are very injurious to the vines. It was supposed, that by erecting numerous *conductors* to draw off the electric fluid, it would be prevented from accumulating to such a degree as to form hail. Conductors for this purpose were called *Para-grêles*, or *Hail-defenders*; but they do not appear to have answered the expectations of their inventors.

C.

NATURE never deceives us; the rocks, the mountains, the streams, always speak the same language; a shower of snow may hide the verdant woods in spring, a thunder-storm may render the blue limpid streams foul and turbulent; but these effects are rare and transient: in a few hours, or at most in a few days, all the sources of beauty are renovated. And nature affords no continued trains of misfortunes and miseries, such as depend upon the constitution of humanity; no hopes for ever blighted in the bud, no beings, full of life, beauty, and promise, taken from us in the prime of youth. Her fruits are all balmy and sweet: she affords none of those blighted ones, so common in the life of man, and so like the fabled apples of the Dead Sea, fresh and beautiful to the sight, but when tasted, full of bitterness and ashes.—SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.

NEAR our encampment, in the beautiful wood of Freemantle, was a tree of singular, though not very ornamental, form; it was called "grass-tree," from its grassy head, and "black-boy," from the dark colour of its stem. The manner of its growth is peculiar, showing itself above the surface of the sand in bunches of grass, which are gradually thrust up by the stem, and form the head. After a time, a long black stick rises from the centre of the grassy head, and contains the seed. I was told that the stem was formed of layers, something like Indian corn, and was filled with a resinous substance. This accounts for its being such excellent fire-wood, emitting an exceedingly bright light when burned. Its usual height was about twelve feet.—*Two Years at Sea.*

POWER OF HABIT.

THAT balancing moment, at which pleasure would allure, and conscience is urging us to refrain, may be regarded as the point of departure, or divergency, whence one or other of the two processes (towards evil, or towards good,) take their commencement. Each of them consists in a particular succession of ideas, with their attendant feelings; and whichever of them may happen to be described once, has, by the law of suggestion, the greater chance, in the same circumstances, of being described over again. Should the mind dwell on an object of allurements, and the considerations of principle not be entertained, it will pass onward from the first incitement to the final and guilty indulgence, by a series of stepping-stones, each of which will present itself more readily in future, and with less chance of arrest or interruption by the suggestions of conscience than before.

But should these suggestions be admitted, and, far more, should they prevail, then, on the principle of association, will they be all the more apt to intervene, on the repetition of the same circumstances, and again break that line of continuity, which, but for this intervention, would have led, from a temptation, to a turpitude or a crime. If, on the occurrence of a temptation, formerly conscience did interpose, and represent the evil of a compliance, and so impress the man with a sense of obligation, as led him to dismiss the fascinating object from the presence of his mind, or to hurry away from it; the likelihood is, that the recurrence of a similar temptation will suggest the same train of thoughts and feelings, and lead to the same beneficial result; and this is a likelihood ever increasing with every repetition of the process. The train which would have terminated in a vicious indulgence, is dispossessed by the train which conducts to a resolution and an act of virtuous self-denial.

The thoughts which tend to awaken emotions and purposes on the side of duty, find readier entrance into the mind; and the thoughts which awaken and urge forward the desire of what is evil, more readily give way. The positive force on the side of virtue is augmented, by every repetition of the train which leads to a virtuous determination. The resistance to this force, on the side of vice, is weakened in proportion to the frequency wherewith that train of suggestions, which would have led to a vicious indulgence, is broken and discomfited. It is thus that, when one is successfully resolute in his opposition to evil, the power of making the achievement, and the facility of the achievement itself, are both upon the increase, and Virtue makes double gain to herself by every separate conquest which she may have won. The humbler attainments of moral worth are first mastered and secured, and the aspiring disciple may pass onward, in a career that is quite indefinite, to nobler deeds and nobler sacrifices.—CHALMERS.

WHAT action was ever so good, or so completely done, as to be well taken of all hands. It concerns every wise Christian to settle his heart in a resolved confidence of his own holy and just grounds, and then to go on in a constant course of his well-warranted judgment and practice, with a careless disregard of those fools'-bolts which will be sure to be shot at him, which way soever he goes.—BISHOP HALL.

MISERY is caused for the most part, not by a heavy crush of disaster, but by the corrosion of less visible evils, which canker enjoyment, and undermine security. The visit of an invader is necessarily rare, but domestic animosities allow no cessation.—DR. JOHNSON

NEW CHAPEL AND BURIAL-GROUND

OF THE BRITISH PROTESTANT RESIDENTS AT CARACCAS, THE CAPITAL OF VENEZUELA, IN SOUTH AMERICA.

"Hour dear in the sight of the Lord, is the death of his saints:" and "He shall gather them out of all lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south."—PSALMS CIVI. and cvii.

It is not much more than fifteen years, since we first had any established residents in Venezuela. From the period of the Spaniards becoming masters of that portion of the New World, its shores were closed to the rest of Europe, particularly to Protestant England; and the mutual rivalries, and religious prejudices, between our mariner-adventurers on the Atlantic Ocean and those of its Spanish Catholic *terra-firma*, continued for many generations to augment into actual antipathy, until time, and almost an entire absence from any relative communication, sunk both parties into a reciprocal oblivion of each other.

This was the state of things until the heroic fidelity of the South American Spaniards to their ancient dynasty of kings, when called upon to acknowledge a brother of the emperor of the French for their sovereign, aroused the recollection of Englishmen, and filled them with respect for the conduct of men whose existence they had nearly forgotten.

Many brave Britons had gone out, and proffered their aid in the war of liberation; and when that was crowned with an apparently assured independence of the country, then the British merchant, and industrious artisan, followed the British military volunteer to the land of commercial promise. They were received with welcome, but, until within these last two years, the old wall of partition between Catholic and Protestant continued to be so determinately retained, that the Protestant settlers had neither a place for Christian worship, according to the forms of their own church, nor a spot of ground wherein to bury their dead.

The English consul, Sir Robert Ker Porter, though a civil officer, was the only representative to the British residents there, of their own church, as well as of their state. He baptized their children, performed their marriage ceremony, and buried those who died amongst them. The first two duties might be respectably solemnized in the hall of the consulate; but the last was overwhelmed with a double weight of affliction to the mourning survivors; the land which had received the living Protestant with hospitality, seemed to deny his dead body the common right of human nature,—a decent grave. A cellar floor, the pavement of the stable-yard, or at best, the garden's most hidden nook, were the only places which might afford a last bed for the remains of a friend or relative. Alas! perhaps not the last receptacle for such sacred relics! for they must be left there at the caprice of any future tenant of the premises, to dig up, and cast they knew not where.

To remedy this distressing state of things, the British Consul directed his serious attention; and when the ameliorating character of the Venezuelan government warranted the attempt, and he had obtained the sanction of his own government, he lost no time in proposing his wishes. The result was, that he succeeded in purchasing a plot of ground, conveniently situated near the city of Caraccas, with an express guarantee from the President and Senate of the Republic, that it should hereafter remain inviolably the possession of the British Protestant residents at Caraccas, for a cemetery, or burial-place for their dead. A sum of money was advanced by our Government, towards the security of the spot, with walls, &c., in aid of the means which the English mer-

chants, whose dust was to mingle within them, had subscribed.

Sir Robert Ker Porter obtained the land in the summer of 1832. It was a beautiful green expanse, on a gentle slope in the valley of the mountain; a sequestered spot, promising the sanctity and the rest to be sought there. He made no delay in drawing the plan, and laying the foundations for the walls and gates; and he planted young trees, of the Cypress-poplar order, to afford shadowy avenues from the gates to the little building, erected for the performance of the funeral service, in a climate in which the bared heads of the mourners and their functionary were exposed to a vertical sun at one season, or a plunging rain at another.

Our sketch represents the little building, or chapel, just mentioned, in the form of a colonnaded portico, with the symbol of the Holy Trinity cut on its stone pediment. It stands at the hither end of the ground, whence the sepulchral field slopes gently down in the shape of a parallelogram. The whole is surrounded by a handsome wall, of a secure height and thickness; and the gates by which it is entered are of the Grecian porch architecture, like the chapel, only without columns. The principal gate at the lower extremity of the ground, immediately facing the chapel, is surmounted by a cross. The second gate opens on one side of the parallelogram, and is partly shown in the sketch by one of its pillars, buttressed by a noble old tree of the country. A few grave-stones, in neatly arranged lines, are also seen, their compartments being divided by chain-railings; for Sir Robert had several of his countrymen to commit to this safer sepulchre, before it became, like our English churchyards, "consecrated ground."

That it might be so hallowed, was the wish, but hardly the expectation, of many a pious individual, who, in that stranger land, remembered the dear familiar homes of their childhood, the parish-bell gladsomely summoning them to the Sabbath-duties of morning and evening prayers, or solemnly tolling the passing knell of the decent funeral, moving with reverent pace to the consecrated spot of the body's rest! To have such a sanctuary, even under seclusion in the land of their distant sojourn, every heart yearned; and their indefatigable consul and friend completed the work by, in due time, obtaining this sacred object also, from the Venezuelan government. Dr. W. H. Coleridge, our Protestant Bishop of Barbadoes, was invited from that island to perform the rite.

As soon as his duties in his own wide diocese, the Leeward Islands, would permit his absence, he embarked in H.M.S. *Forte*, Commodore Pell, on the 27th of January in this year, and arrived at La Guayra, the port of Caraccas, on the 22nd of February. On the evening of his reaching La Guayra, he proceeded across the mountains (a journey of twenty miles), to the city of Caraccas, and became the immediate guest, with his official attendants, of the Consul. On the 24th, his lordship received the respect of an especial audience by General Paez, the President of the Republic of Venezuela. Similar reverence, by visits, &c. was paid to him by the other chief authorities; and on the 26th of the month, in the presence of his Excellency the President, and the Ministers of the Republic, with other great officers, civil and military, and of Sir Robert Ker Porter, his Majesty's Consul, with Colonel Stopford, and the Commodore and officers of H.M.S. *Forte*, and of the British residents, male and female, young and old, and a large mixed concourse of the inhabitants of the city, the Bishop of Barbadoes, (the first bishop our church ever sent to that

part of our West Indian dominions!) consecrated our chapel and its burying-ground, on that once Spanish *terra-firma*.

When the bishop, with his clerical train, and the chief of the British residents, had passed on from the great gate of the cemetery, repeating, the 24th Psalm, they entered the chapel, (the colonnaded front of which is quite open to the air;) and seated himself in the episcopal chair prepared for the occasion. The Venezuelan authorities sat on his right side, and the British consul and commodore, &c., on his left. The chaplains then recited the prayers, and read the chapters in the Bible appropriated to the consecration of the chapel and burial-ground. This was succeeded by a procession of the whole assembly, headed by the bishop, along the interior of the sepulchral-field; continuing the prayers for its sanctification, as they traversed the young cypress avenues, and the bright green-sward of the unshaded ground, where the little hillock, or the level stone, marked that a Christian brother had already been laid.

The most marked order and reverence prevailed amongst all present, during the whole ceremony; and when it closed with a solemn address and benediction from the bishop, there was not even a disturbing whisper heard. Every countenance, as it turned away from the now sacredly guaranteed spot, cast a look, whether from Catholic or Protestant, on each silent tomb, which seemed to say, "May the sleeper rest in peace!"

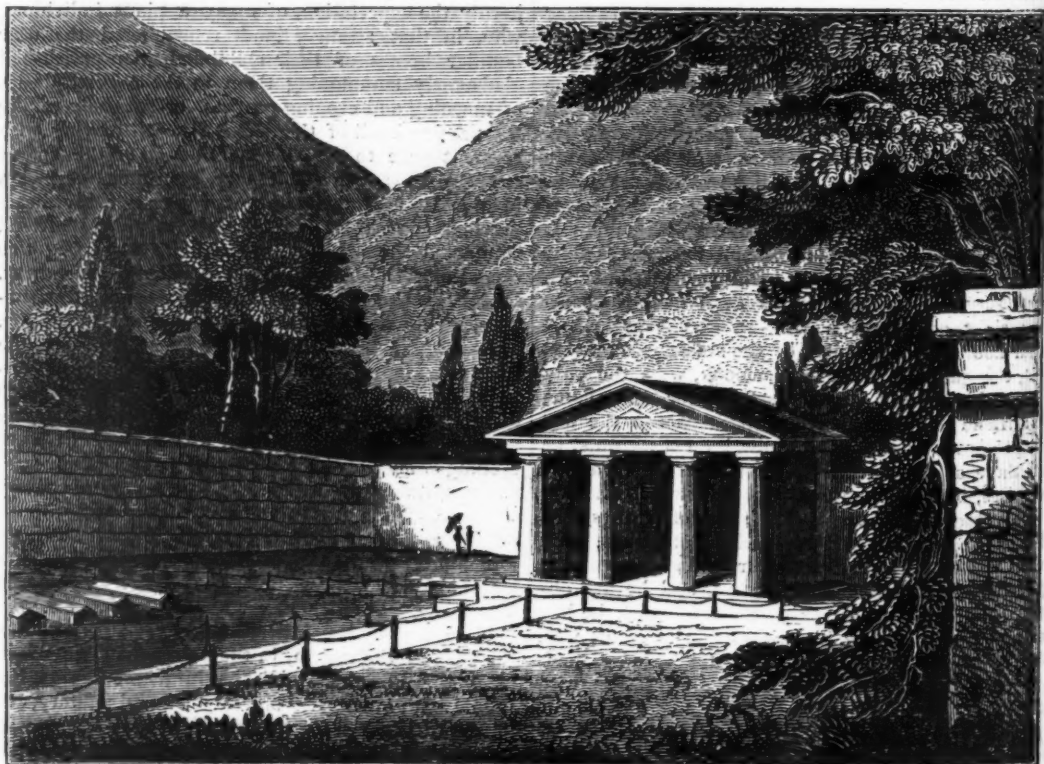
We have seen a little account of the bishop's own writing to a friend, in which he describes the place, and the adjoining scenery. We cannot but enrich our own sketch with an extract.

"Amidst a sublimity and richness of landscape almost unequalled in the world, which presents itself to the view of the astonished traveller, on looking

down from the high mountain-pass on the city of Caracas, (splendid still, even after the ruin it sustained by the terrible earthquake in 1812,) and along its lengthened line of fertile plain, irrigated by the river Guayra, and stretching in an easterly and westerly direction for more than twenty miles; at this elevation of nearly 3000 feet above the level of the sea, with a range of mountains on either side, (rising at one point to more than 5000 feet above the plain itself,) the eye yet rests with calm and holy delight on the conspicuous, but neat and simple burial-ground of the English church."

The little chapel and its cemetery have received the name of St. Paul: he who of all the Apostles, perhaps, traversed the widest circuit of the known globe in his holy mission. Now, on this side of it, which was then unknown to the other half, (probably because it was not inhabited,) we have, after the lapse of eighteen centuries since the first promulgation of the Gospel by that eminent Apostle to every shore of the Old World, set his name in this quarter of the New, on a Protestant Christian chapel: the first built, and sanctioned, and consecrated for our simple doctrines and worship, on that Roman Catholic expanse of the American Continent; and the first Protestant Bishop who ever set foot on it, was invited thither for the purpose of performing that patriarchal duty for the members of our British Church. He, too, is the first prelate which that church sent to our West India Islands, and Sir Robert Ker Porter the first Consul accredited by the British Government to the Caracas state; nay, we may add, that it was also permitted and done, during the first Presidency of General Paez over the New Republic of Venezuela. The epoch is remarkable, and reflects an abiding honour on all concerned.

A SPECTATOR.



PROTESTANT CEMETERY AT CARACAS.